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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Borough of Louth

For the Year 1937.

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THE PRINTERIES,
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Louth,
Lincolnshire,
May, 1938.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Louth.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for 1937.

On the whole the health of the town has been good, no severe epidemic having occurred. For some weeks Measles and Chicken Pox were prevalent.

A. Statistics and Social Conditions :—

1. **Area**(in acres) 2,812.

Estimate of resident population	9,714
No. of inhabited houses, at end of 1937	3,324
Rateable Value	£49,810
Sum represented by penny rate	£196

The only large industries in the town are Jam and Pea factories.

2. Vital Statistics.

The estimated population is 9,714.

LIVE BIRTHS—	Male	Female	
Legitimate	58	70	
Illegitimate	4	3	
	62	73	Total 135

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.9.

Stillbirths	Male	Female	Total
	4	3	7

Deaths—	Male	Female	Total
	75	88	163

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.8.

Deaths from puerperal causes	nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age	13
Death Rate per 1,000 live births	1.3
Deaths from **Cancer** (all ages)	15
Deaths from **Measles** (all ages)	nil
Deaths from **Whooping Cough** (all ages)	nil
Deaths from **Diarrhoea** (under 2 years)	1

B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area:—

Medical Officer of Health : Edward Sharpley, M.D.

Sanitary Inspector : M. Dowson, Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and Diploma of the Institute of Hygiene.

Surveyor : J. C. Barber, A.M. Institute, M. and Cy.E.

J. W. Beaumont, M.R.C.V.S. (part time) is Inspector under Public Health (meat) Regulations 1924. T.B. order 1928. Milk and Dairies orders.

a. Laboratory Facilities. The County Council have a Laboratory in Lincoln where the following bacteriological specimens can be examined—Throat swabs for the presence of diphtheria bacilli ; Sputum specimens for presence of tubercle bacilli; Blood test for the diagnosis of Enteric Fever ; Milk samples, etc.

Specimens of Venereal Disease are sent for examination to the Laboratory at Grimsby.

In Louth a supply of Diphtheria Serum is provided by the Borough, and can be obtained through the Medical Officer of Health.

b. Accidents. A Motor Ambulance is provided by the British Red Cross Society.

For infectious cases an Ambulance is supplied from the Scartho Isolation Hospital.

c. Clinics and Treatment Centres. There is a Clinic in Queen Street, which is under the County Council Medical Officers.

Tuberculosis patients also attend a Dispensary there.

Nurses are in attendance at this Clinic.

d. There is a **Louth & District Hospital** and a Dispensary, supported by voluntary contributions. The Hospital contains 56 beds. There is a Maternity Ward available for town and country patients, also a large Ward for children. Besides these Wards there are several smaller rooms for private patients. There is no resident House-Surgeon, the patients being attended by the local Medical Practitioners.

The Tuberculosis Hospital is provided by the Lindsey County Council.

The Lindsey County Infirmary is rapidly approaching completion. It is to provide accommodation for patients from all parts of Lindsey. It is estimated there will be about 200 beds. There is a Resident Medical Officer, who will be assisted by two junior Medical men.

The Nursing Staff when complete will consist of a Matron, and about thirty nurses. It is under the charge of the Lindsey County Council.

Nursing in the Home. The District Nursing Association was maintained by voluntary contributions. The Nurse retired, and I regret to say it was found impossible to carry on, through lack of financial support.

But a Nurse is supplied by the County Council, who visits cases of Ophthalmia, Measles, Whooping Cough etc. reported from the Schools. Arrangements for infectious cases have been made by the Public Health Committee of the Town Council for patients to be sent to Scartho Isolation Hospital, which is under the charge of the Grimsby authorities.

2. Midwifery and Maternity. There is a Certified Midwife in the town, but many cases are treated in the Hospitals.

A Nursery School is carried on for children under five years of age. It is supported by a grant from the Lindsey County Council and Voluntary Contributions. During the year the attendance has averaged twenty-seven a day, which was smaller than the preceeding year, owing to the prevalence of Measles and Chicken Pox.

Orthopaedic Treatment. Patients can be seen by arrangement at the Clinic in Queen Street.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water. A new source for the supply of water is now being investigated, chiefly with the object of finding a softer water, and one free from contamination. The present supply is obtained from underground springs in the chalk, and the quantity is exceptionally good. On the advice of the Borough Analyst, and as a result of circulars from the Ministry of Health it was decided to instal a Chlorination plant which has been in operation for some months.

The water supply is controlled by both bacteriological and chemical examinations, monthly supplies being sent to the Borough Analyst for his report.

Recent reports on the quality of the water are very satisfactory, particularly since chlorination was inaugurated, but reports previous to the installation shewed some contamination by sewage.

The Council have in hand an extensive scheme for the laying of new water mains in the borough, to replace those now existing, which serve the higher portions of the town, and to form the basis for any further extensions and replacements in the future.

Public Water Supply to houses 98½%.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extenions of any magnitude have been carried out during the last twelve months. Flushing and general repairs to existing sewers being the chief items of expenditure.

Closets.

No. houses with privy vaults	61
No. houses with pail closets	39
No. pail closets substituted for privy vaults	3
No. pail closets repaired	nil
No. water closets substituted for dry receptacles	5
No. houses with water closets	3,181
No. of water closets repaired	4

Cesspool.

Emptied, cleansed etc.	1

Scavenging.

Refuse is collected by public Scavenger weekly; the final disposal is by incineration. Practically all houses use bins.

Nuisances.

1. Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	178
2. Reported to Council—	
Statutory notice issued	20
Statutory notice not issued	nil

DETAILS OF NUISANCES ABATED.

	After Informal Information.	After Statutory Notice.
Overcrowding	nil	nil
Smoke	nil	nil
Accumulation of refuse	15	nil
Foul ditches, ponds, etc.	nil	nil
Foul pigs & other animals	2	nil
Dampness	7	1
Yards repaved or repaired	22	1
Other nuisances	132	18

Shops Act, 1934.

No. inspected	30
Additional heating or ventilation	nil
Additional sanitary conveniences	nil

Swimming Baths, Pools.

There is a Public Swimming Bath, which is privately owned, but is under the supervision of the Sanitary Authorities.

Schools.

These are under the control of the Lindsey County Council, who have their own Medical Officers and Inspectors.

D. Housing.

Total no. of new houses erected during year	95
1. By Local Authority	52
2. By other Local Authorities	3
3. By other bodies or persons	40

Inspection of Dwelling-houses.

1.	(a) Inspection of Dwelling-nouses (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	396
	(b) No inspections made for the purpose	602
2.	(a) No dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) (above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	91
	(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	214
3.	No. dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	53

4.	No. dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	110

2. **Remedy of Defects** during the year without service of formal notice :—

	No. defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or Officers	72

3. **Action under Statutory Powers** during the year :—

(a) Proceeding under Sections 9, 10, 36 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1.	No. dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	20
2.	No. dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) by owners	19
	(b) by Local Authority	nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1.	No. dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served, requiring defects to be remedied	4
2.	No. dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) by owners	4
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil

(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :	
1.	No. dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	1
2.	No. dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
3.	No. dwelling-houses subject to undertakings	nil
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
1.	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
2.	No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.

Overcrowding.

(a)	I.	No. dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	14
	II.	No. families dwelling therein	14
	III.	No. of persons dwelling therein	82
	(b)	No. new cases of overcrowding during year	17
(c)	I.	No. of cases of overcrowding relieved	22
	II.	No of persons concerned in such cases	128
	(d)	No. houses again overcrowded	nil

The Slum Clearance has progressed, as during the year fifty-two more houses have been completed and occupied by persons displaced from the Clearance areas.

Seven more Clearance Orders have been made, comprising forty-four houses.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Mr. Beaumont has supplied me with the following particulars.

a. Milk Supply, Dairies and Milk Shops.

No. on register	14
No. of Inspections	8
Contravention of regulations	nil
Contraventions remedied	nil
Any instance of disease attributed to milk during the year	nil

b. Meat and Other Foods.

Slaughter Houses :—

No. on register	14
No. Inspections	Daily
Contravention of bye-laws	nil
Defects remedied	nil

Cowsheds.

No. on register	48
No. Inspections	8
Contravention of regulation	nil
Contravention remedied	nil
No. of Milch Cows in district	300

Carcases Inspected and Condemned Cattle.

Cows, Calves, Sheep, Lambs, Pigs.

No. killed (if any)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. inspected		1,144		4,264	2,600
All diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned	1				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4				
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B.		·78%	4	·21% 9	
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned	6				11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	·52%				·42%

Bakehouses.

No. in district	20
No. underground	nil
No. Inspections	50
Contravention of Factory Acts	1
Defects remedied	1

Common Lodging Houses.

No. registered under bye-laws	1
No. Inspections	4
No. Contraventions	nil

Movable Dwellings, Tents, etc.

No. Inspections	7
No. nuisances abated	nil
No. removed from district	7

Offensive Trades.

No. in district	7
No. Inspections	23
Contravention of bye-laws	nil

1. Factories, Workshops, etc.

Premises.	No. of Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecution
Factories (including Laundries)	19	2	Nil
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	80	1	Nil
Work places other than Outworkers premises	55	Nil	Nil
Total	104	3	Nil

2. Defects in Factories, Workshops, etc.

Particulars	Defects Found	Remedied	Defects referred to H M. Inspector	No. of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness	2	2	nil	nil
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	1	1	nil	nil
Sanitary accommodation, insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective				
Not separate for sexes				
Total	3	3	nil	nil

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease		Total Cases notified	Cases sent to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	nil	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever	...	3	1	nil
Diphtheria	...	4	3	1
Enteric (including Paratyphoid	...	nil	nil	nil
Puerperal Fever	...	nil	nil	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	2	2	nil
Pneumonia	...	10	3	7
Erysipelas	...	1	nil	nil

Influenza was rather prevalent during the early part of the year, but most cases were of a mild type.

Measles. An epidemic occurred in the Spring. Most of the cases quickly recovered.

During the year the borough has been singularly free from notifiable diseases.

Disinfection.

Rooms disinfected :—

(a) Ordinary infectious diseases	12
(b) **Tuberculosis**	14
Rooms stripped and cleansed	nil
Articles disinfected or destroyed	nil
(a) Ordinary infectious disease	54
(b) Tuberculosis	Contents of 5 rooms.

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmouary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...		1						
5 ...			1	1				
15 ..	2	1	1		1	1		
25 ...	2	2	1		2	1		
35 ...	1				1	1		
45 ...	2				2			
55 ...								
65 & upwards								
Total	7	4		1	6	3	nil	nil

In conclusion I beg to thank the Public Health Committee and the Officials for their kind assistance during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD SHARPLEY, M.D., M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.